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February 13, 2008

TO: Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Initial Public and Agency Request for Scoping Comments:  
Comments Requested by February 27, 2008

The Board is evaluating forest practice rules related to protection of anadromous fisheries, termed the Threatened or Impaired Watershed rules, or T/I rules. To assist in this review, the Board invites scoping comments on aspects of the T/I rules, other than those aspects of the rules related to riparian function which are the subject of a pending literature review, which may be considered for potential revision or amendment. The Board requests that comments be submitted by close of business February 27, 2008.

To assist in its review of the riparian function aspects of the T/I rules, the Board is using a technical advisory committee and a professional consultant team to conduct a science literature review on forest management affects on riparian zones. The review of scientific literature specific to riparian zones will be completed and presented to the Board by approximately June 2008.

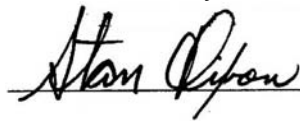
Simultaneous to this work, the Board is beginning to review aspects of the T/I rules not specifically related to riparian functions. These include topics such as watershed definitions; cumulative effects analyses; logging, road and landing practices; and monitoring and adaptive management.

The goal of the review of both the riparian and non-riparian T/I aspects of the rules is to allow the Board to consider the rules in their entirety and whether to adopt, amend, or repeal any portions the existing regulations based on current science findings. The review will involve establishing a process for reviewing the rules, timeframes, public and agency participation plan, identification of science issues, regulatory needs of other responsible agencies, and development of regulatory language. The Board intends that any rule amendments resulting from this process will be ready for regulatory noticing in March 2009.

To assist in defining the scope of its review, the Board at this time is inviting agency and public comments relating to the non-riparian aspects of the T/I rules. Comments may be general or specific in nature and may pertain to any related process, timeframe, or science issue in the non-riparian aspects of the rules. This is the initial phase of the process for reviewing the non-riparian aspects of the rules. Based on comments received the Board will identify issues to be addressed and the process and time frame for completing the review. The Board will begin its review process at the March 5, 2008 Forest Practice Committee meeting. We look forward to receiving any formal or informal comments by February 27 for the Board's consideration. Later comments will also be considered. Comments should be submitted to the Board's Executive Officer.

Please contact the Board's executive officer with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Dixon", written over a horizontal line.

Stan L. Dixon  
Chair

This letter was sent to the following individuals:

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